

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 5, 2009 has been carefully considered. New claims 20-22 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11, 14 and 20-22 are in this application.

Applicant and applicant's attorney thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a June 11, 2009 teleconference. Applicant confirms the substance of the interview of a discussion of U.S. Patent No. 4,651,380 to Ogden and that Ogden teaches using blowers in either parallel or in series, but does not teach or suggest using a combination of blowers in both parallel and series.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been entered.

The previously submitted claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,651,380 to Ogden. Applicant submits that the teachings of this reference do not teach or suggest the invention defined by the patent claims.

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that Ogden teaches that two blowers are used as opposed to the claimed three and that the addition of a third blower to the two blowers in the system of Ogden is considered to be obvious. However, Applicant submits that Ogden does not teach or suggest an embodiment including the combination of blowers in both parallel and series. Rather, Ogden discloses that the blowers are present either in a parallel or series configuration. Applicant submits that it may be obvious from Ogden to add another blower in parallel to the parallel configuration or another blower in series to the series configuration, but it would not be obvious from Ogden to combine the blowers in both a parallel and series configuration.

In the present claims, two blowers are connected in parallel and a third blower is connected in series which results in both an increase in air flow through the assembly and an increase in water lift. As described on page 15, lines 16-17 of the present application, the vacuum assembly of the present invention develops 200 inches of water lift capability and 230 cfm of vacuum. In contrast, Ogden teach a water lift of 170 inches of water and an air flow of 90 cfm for two blowers in series and a water lift of 125 inches of water lift and an air flow of 180 cfm for two blowers in parallel, (col. 7, lines 60-65). Accordingly, even if an additional blower was added in either series or parallel to Ogden the results of the present invention would

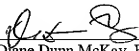
not be obtained. Applicant submits it is unexpected that connecting two blowers in parallel and a third blower in series both increase air flow through the assembly and increase water lift to the amount achieved by the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that the degree of benefit is unexpected since the results are much improved over both of the disclosed Ogden configurations. Further, Applicant submits that in the past 42 years of carpet cleaning, no one has tried this configuration as noted in the Declaration of Alex Martynovych submitted herewith.

Furthermore, even if another blower was added to the system of Ogden, Ogden would not achieve the results of the present invention because Ogden does not teach or suggest a waste return line having a diameter of 2 inches as defined by new claim 20. Applicant submits that the waste return line comprises the vacuum hose and wand and it is unexpected to use a 2 inch diameter vacuum hose and a 2 inch diameter wand in combination with two blowers in parallel and a blower in series to provide long distance cleaning up to 800 feet. As noted in the Declaration of Alex Martynovych, the Ogden system is commercially available and this system include a 1½ inch vacuum hose and 1½ diameter wand which constrict the air flow and water lift in the cleaning process. Accordingly, even if Ogden used the blower assembly configuration of the present invention they would not achieve the same results as the present invention because they do not teach or suggest the use of a 2 inch diameter vacuum hose and a 2 inch diameter wand in combination with two blowers in parallel and a blower in series. Further, as noted in the Declaration of Alex Marynovych, there is a long felt need for carpet cleaning of over long runs and none of the previous solutions have been able to obtain the superior results of the carpet cleaning system of the present claims. Accordingly, the invention defined by the present claims is not obvious in view of Ogden.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he believe that this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

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